

## **May 19, 2009, Meeting Minutes Marriott Courtyard – Tacoma, Washington**

The meeting of the Washington Citizens' Commission on Salaries for Elected Officials was convened and brought to order by Alan Doman, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

### **Roll Call of Commissioners**

#### **Commission Members Present:**

- Rose Amurao
- Dale Carlisle
- Sheila Chapman
- Willeam Denton-Hornbeck
- Alan Doman, Chair
- Lane Hartvigson
- Janet Hays
- Tom Huff, Vice-Chair
- John McCallum
- Dr. Ken Mortimer
- Dirk Muyskens
- Katherine Wade-Easley
- Joy Yake

#### **Commission Members Present via Telephone:**

- Dean Nordstrom

#### **Commission Members Excused:**

- Brian Sadden

#### **Commission Members Unexcused:**

- Linda Lopez

#### **Staff Present:**

- Carol Sayer, Director
- Teri Wright, Executive Assistant

### **Meeting Opening Statement and Approval of the April 23, 2009 Minutes**

Tom Huff, Vice-Chair, read the opening meeting statement. Alan Doman asked if everyone had received their copy of the April 23, 2009, meeting minutes. Joy Yake motioned to accept the meeting minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Janet Hays and carried by a unanimous voice vote.

### **Meeting Folders and their Contents**

Teri Wright explained that all the items on the right side of the meeting folders were additions to their 2009 Salary Setting Session Binder. Most of the items on the left side of the meeting folder have agenda places later in the day.

Alan Doman asked whether anyone from the Judiciary wished to speak. Present were:

- Jeff Hall, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Judge Ron Culpepper, Superior Court Judges Association

Judge Culpepper stated that he appreciates the work of the Commission in setting judicial salaries. Judge Culpepper briefly explained his role in the judicial system in Pierce County.

Willeam Denton Hornbeck asked Judge Culpepper what impact private mediation firms are having on his area of the state. Judge Culpepper stated that they did have a couple of judges leave the bench for a private mediation firm, but in general felt that the impact of these private firms was minimal.

### **Work Session**

- **Media Study and Contacts Report**

Teri Wright informed commissioners that in late April, staff sent electronic notices to the state's elected officials reminding them that the final 2009-10 salary schedule would be set at today's meeting and inviting any comment they might have on the proposed salaries. Also in late April, staff sent electronic notices to 121 members of the media (print, radio, and TV), asking them to remind the public that the final salary schedule would be adopted on May 19<sup>th</sup> and that the deadline for comment was ending. Finally, prior to today's meeting, staff sent electronic notices to Tacoma and Pierce County officials and the media notifying them of the date and time of this meeting. Teri went on to explain that the Commission had not received input as a result of the media releases.

Carol Sayer stated that we have cancelled the media service; however, our plan is that during the next salary setting session we will search for a different media service to help us contact the public. Sheila Chapman asked if part of the lack of input from the public is because they agree with the Commission's recommendation. Carol Sayer agreed that this is the case, but had hoped to receive more public input into the process. Carol still believes that the Commission has a responsibility to do whatever can be done within our means to make the public aware of the process. Alan Doman reiterated that the Commission does have a responsibility to increase the visibility of the process.

- **Public Comments Report**

Teri Wright pointed out that since the last meeting the Commission had received only one comment, so only the last page of the report was printed.

- **Final 2009-2011 Budget**

Carol Sayer explained that the version that passed through the Legislature was the House budget proposal. Even though the Commission ended up with less money for the next biennium, funding was better equalized to help us maintain operation during the first year. During the next salary setting session we will only have two public meetings instead of four meetings. This legislative change is temporary and only for the 2009-2011 biennium.

- Update on WAC Process

Carol Sayer explained what was still needed to be done to finalize the WAC process. The final step involving Commission is via a conference call on May 28, 2009. After adoption by the Commission the rules will be submitted to the Code Reviser's Office to make them final.

- Salary Certification Process

Carol Sayer explained the process of what happens after the Commission adopts a final salary schedule.

### **Presentation by Arun Raha, Chief Economist, Washington Economic and Revenue Forecast Council**

Mr. Raha explained that The U.S. economy has been in recession since December 2007 and that Washington lagged the U.S. into recession but will come out of it at about the same time. The key to both a national and state economic recovery is a return to normalcy in credit markets, and a return of confidence. State revenues are dependent on consumer expenditures. Salaries are increasing despite the economy, but people are not spending the extra money they are earning. Revenues will recover only when consumer spending recovers. The recession is expected to end in the third quarter of 2009, followed by weak growth into the middle of 2010. Job losses are expected to continue into the recovery. The key to the recovery and the source of the greatest downside risk to the forecast are the assumptions about a return to some kind of normalcy in credit markets around the third quarter of this year.

### **Public Testimony**

Alan Doman read the procedures for public testimony.

One member of the public was present, but did not wish to testify.

### **Work Session Continued**

- Adopt Final Salary Schedule for 2009-10

Ken Mortimer **motioned** to freeze salaries for the Executive Branch for 2009-2010 at 2008 levels. The motion was seconded by Dale Carlisle.

The vote was as follows:

Commissioner	Yes	No
Rose Amurao	X	
Dale Carlisle	X	
Sheila Chapman	X	
Willeam Denton Hornbeck	X	
Alan Doman	X	



Lane Hartvigson	X	
Janet Hays	X	
Tom Huff	X	
John McCallum	X	
Ken Mortimer	X	
Dirk Muyskens	X	
Dean Nordstrom	X	
Katherine Wade-Easley	X	
Joy Yake	X	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>

The motion was carried unanimously.

---

Willeam Denton Hornbeck **motioned** to freeze salaries for the Legislative Branch for 2009-2010 at 2008 levels. The motion was seconded by Sheila Chapman.

The vote was as follows:

Commissioner	Yes	No
Rose Amurao	X	
Dale Carlisle	X	
Sheila Chapman	X	
Willeam Denton Hornbeck	X	
Alan Doman	X	
Lane Hartvigson	X	
Janet Hays	X	
Tom Huff	X	
John McCallum	X	
Ken Mortimer	X	
Dirk Muyskens	X	
Dean Nordstrom	X	
Katherine Wade-Easley	X	
Joy Yake	X	
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>

The motion was carried unanimously.

---

Tom Huff **motioned** to freeze salaries for the Judicial Branch for 2009-2010 at 2008 levels. The motion was seconded by John McCallum.

The vote was as follows:

Commissioner	Yes	No
Rose Amurao	X	
Dale Carlisle	X	
Sheila Chapman	X	
Willeen Denton Hornbeck	X	
Alan Doman	X	
Lane Hartvigson		X
Janet Hays		X
Tom Huff	X	
John McCallum	X	
Ken Mortimer	X	
Dirk Muyskens	X	
Dean Nordstrom	X	
Katherine Wade-Easley		X
Joy Yake	X	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

The motion was carried 11 to three.

---

- Review Rationale Statement

There was discussion about how to revise the rationale statement to make the most sense with the least verbiage. Dale Carlisle motioned to adopt Tom Huff's version of the rationale statement as modified. The motion was seconded by Tom Huff. There was a roll call vote and the motion passed with a yes vote by 10 Commissioners.

- Reminder – May 28 Conference Call and June Conference Call Meetings

Carol Sayer reminded Commissioners that the next meeting would take place via conference call on May 28, 2009. Staff planned to send the agenda and directions for joining the call to Commissioners by the end of the week.

Carol also explained that a conference call meeting would be scheduled for mid-June to approve the minutes for today's meeting.

Carol Sayer gave awards to recognize our Commissioners leaving the Commission effective June 30, 2010. Awards were given as follows:

- Willean Denton Hornbeck, 7/1/02 through 6/30/10
- Alan Doman, Chair, 7/1/02 through 6/30/10
- John McCallum, 7/1/06 through 6/30/10
- Dirk Muyskens, 7/1/06 through 6/30/10; and
- Katherine Wade-Easley, 7/1/06 through 6/30/10

Awards mailed to Commissioners:

- Linda Lopez, 7/1/06 through 6/30/10
- Brian Sadden, 7/1/06 through 6/30/10

### 2009-10 Salary Schedule Adopted May 19, 2009

Position	Salary Effective 9/1/2009	Salary Effective 9/1/2010
<b><i>Executive Branch</i></b>		
Governor	166,891	166,891
Lieutenant Governor	93,948	93,948
Secretary of State	116,950	116,950
Treasurer	116,950	116,950
Auditor	116,950	116,950
Attorney General	151,718	151,718
Insurance Commissioner	116,950	116,950
Supt. Public Instruction	121,618	121,618
Commissioner of Public Lands	121,618	121,618
<b><i>Judicial Branch</i></b>		
Supreme Court Justices	164,221	164,221
Court of Appeals Judges	156,328	156,328
Superior Court Judges	148,832	148,832
District Court Judges	141,710	141,710
<b><i>Legislative Branch</i></b>		
Legislator	42,106	42,106
Speaker of the House	50,106	50,106
Senate Majority Leader	50,106	50,106
House Minority Leader	46,106	46,106
Senate Minority Leader	46,106	46,106

The Commission recognized the current, very difficult, economic conditions and state budget issues which are projected to continue in 2009 and at least 2010. Because of this, the Commission has frozen the salaries of the state's elected officials for 2009 and 2010. The Commission regrets the need to take this action.

Future commissions will consider the long term needs of the state and will make continuing salary adjustments to be competitive and attract citizens of the highest quality to public service.

The meeting was adjourned by a motion by Rose Amurao and seconded by Sheila Chapman. The motion was carried by a unanimous voice vote. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 p.m.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Alan Doman, Chair

6/25/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date